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Twin Cities

PC USER GROUP

NEWSLETTER

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*TC/PC Exists to
Facilitate and Encourage
the Cooperative Exchange of
PC Knowledge and
Information Across
All Levels of Experience*

August 2026

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General Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

7:00 PM

Fun with Fonts:

The Science of Typography

Presenter: Chris Taylor, OPCUG

Via Zoom Only

Dive into the fascinating world of typography with Chris Taylor, President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group. Chris will demystify the terminology of typography and explore its rich history. Learn what makes a typeface readable or distracting, how to effectively combine multiple typefaces, and the emotions different fonts can evoke.

Whether your next project is a greeting card, poster, newsletter, business card, logo, or anything else that incorporates text, Chris can help you avoid common typographic pitfalls. Practical tips will help you choose the right typeface, create visually appealing and readable text, and more. For the design novice or seasoned pro, this presentation will enhance your appreciation and understanding of typography's powerful impact. [See Chris Taylor's bio on page 10.]

Note: All TC/PC Meetings and SIG Groups will be virtual until further notice. Visit tcpc.com for info.

Tech Topics with Jack Ungerleider via Zoom at 6pm before the General Meeting.



TC/PC is a
Member of

24-Hour Information • www.tcpc.com
Application form inside back cover

The Digital Viking

The Digital Viking is the official monthly publication of the Twin Cities PC User Group, a 501(c)(3) organization and an all-volunteer organization dedicated to users of IBM-compatible computers. Subscriptions are included in membership. We welcome articles and reviews from members. The Digital Viking is a copyrighted publication and reproduction of any material is expressly prohibited without permission. Exception: other User Groups may use material if unaltered and credited.

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Full page (7½ x 9½)	\$100.00
Two-thirds page (7½ x 6)	80.00
Half page (7½ x 4¾)	65.00
One-third page (7½ x 3)	50.00
Quarter page (3½ x 4¾)	40.00
Member Bus. Card (2 x 3½)	10.00

Multiple insertion discounts available.

Contact Sharon Walbran at: SQWalbran@yahoo.com

Deadline for ad placement is the 1st of the month prior to publication. All rates are per issue and for digital or camera-ready ads. Typesetting and other services are extra and must be requested in advance of submission deadlines.

Payment must accompany order unless other arrangements are made in advance. Place make checks payable to: **Twin Cities PC User Group**

TC/PC 2026-2027 Board of Directors

Meets once or twice per year. All members welcome to attend.

Visit www.tcp.com for meeting details.

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TC/PC Member Benefits

Product previews
and demonstrations

Special Interest Groups
Monthly Newsletter

Discounts on products
and services

Contests and prizes

Business Member Benefits

All of the above PLUS:

FREE ½ page ad on
payment of each renewal

20% discount on all ads
Placed in the *Digital
Viking* Newsletter

Up to 5 newsletters mailed to
your site
(only a nominal cost for each
additional 5 mailed)

Newsletter Staff

Editor Sharon Walbran

Upcoming Meetings and Events

VIBE Coding Competition

Hosted by OPCUG—Ottawa PC Users Group

Wed. Oct. 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm

[Details on Page 10]

Some AI Codes for Better Search Results

By Sharon Walbran

Twin Cities PC Users Group, <https://www.tcpc.com>

Asking questions of AI can generate helpful information and answers to those questions but you can refine the results by including some simple codes as part of your request. We'll take a look at a few to get you started. For these examples I used Google Search in AI Mode, but the codes should work with other AI programs like Claude, ChatGPT, etc. Lists of common codes are available by searching online.

It may be helpful for you to test the code by giving it an example where you already know the answer and see if the results using that code are satisfactory or if there is another that will get you the results in the format you want.

The code is preceded by a forward slash in the search box then followed by the question or information, in some cases.

=====

/tldr

You may have seen this in text messages or even used it yourself.

Tldr stands for "Too long; didn't read." It can be used at the beginning of an AI request asking for a short summary of a long article or story or multi-page report. For this example, I gave it a summary of Homer's "The Iliad" [not included here for space considerations] but asking for a concise summary of the epic.

The request:

/tldr [multi-page summary of The Iliad was pasted here]

The response:

Homer's epic poem **The Iliad** covers a few weeks in the final year of the Trojan War. It centers on the anger of the Greek hero Achilles, who refuses to fight after a fight with King Agamemnon, causing heavy losses until his friend dies. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#)

□ Key Themes and Elements

- **The Wrath of Achilles:** His wounded pride drives the main plot.
- **Intervention of the Gods:** Deities like Apollo, Thetis, and Zeus actively choose sides and shift the balance of power.
- **Tragic Consequences:** Personal pride leads directly to the death of loved ones and heavy grief. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#), [\[3\]](#), [\[4\]](#), [\[5\]](#)

1 Chronological Breakdown of the Plot

Phase	Key Event	Description
The Quarrel	Agamemnon takes Briseis	Agamemnon seizes Achilles' captive prize, causing Achilles to quit the war.
The Turning Tide	Hector pushes the Greeks back	Without Achilles, the Trojans drive the Greek army to their ships.
The Turning Point	Patroclus dies	Patroclus wears Achilles' armor into battle and is killed by Hector.
Resolution	Death of Hector and Priam's plea	Achilles kills Hector, later surrendering the body to King Priam for a proper burial.

===== /step-by-step

When you want to get step-by-step instructions that explain how to make something, fix or repair something, use an Excel formula or function, etc., starting the request with /step-by-step will not just generate a description of how to do something, but actually give you the step-by-step procedures.

For the example, I asked how to draw a specific cat.

The request:

/step-by-step how to draw a black and white tuxedo cat sleeping on a green rug

The response:

Here is a step-by-step guide to drawing a tuxedo cat sleeping on a rug.

☐ **Materials Needed**

- **Paper:** Standard drawing paper.
- **Pencils:** HB for sketching, 4B or 6B for dark shading.
- **Eraser:** Kneaded or vinyl eraser.
- **Color:** Green colored pencil or marker.

☐ **Step-by-Step Instructions**

1. Sketch the Basic Shapes

- **Body:** Draw a large, horizontal oval for the curled body.
- **Head:** Draw a smaller circle tucked against the oval.
- **Rug:** Draw a large, shallow ellipse overlapping underneath the cat.

2. Define the Cat's Pose

- **Face:** Add a curved line down the head center to show it tilting down.
- **Paws:** Sketch two small oval paws tucked near the face.
- **Tail:** Draw a curved shape wrapping around the bottom of the body. [\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)

=====

/compare

Use /compare at the beginning of the request followed by two or more items, particularly products that you are considering purchasing. For this example I asked AI to compare the two Honda Civic Hybrid Hatchbacks, the Sport and the Touring models.

The request:

/compare Honda Civic Sport Hybrid Hatchback and Honda Civic Touring Hybrid Hatchback

The response:

The primary difference between the two trims is that the **Honda Civic Sport Hybrid Hatchback focusing on performance value**, while the **Honda Civic Sport Touring Hybrid Hatchback acts as the fully loaded luxury model**. Both vehicles share identical mechanical components, meaning they deliver the exact same driving dynamics, power, and efficiency. [[1](#), [2](#)]

Side-by-Side Comparison		
Feature	Sport Hybrid Hatchback	Sport Touring Hybrid Hatchback
Base MSRP	\$30,595	\$33,595
Powertrain	2.0L 4-Cyl + Dual Electric Motors	2.0L 4-Cyl + Dual Electric Motors
Performance	200 hp / 232 lb-ft torque	200 hp / 232 lb-ft torque
EPA Fuel Economy	50 City / 45 Highway / 48 Combined	50 City / 45 Highway / 48 Combined
Wheels	18-inch Gloss Black Alloys	18-inch Alloys with Matte Shark Gray Inserts
Seating Material	Sport Cloth	Perforated Leather-Trimmed
Front Seats	Heated, Manual Adjustment	Heated, Power-Adjustable (8-way Driver / 4-way Passenger)
Infotainment Screen	7-inch Color Touchscreen	9-inch Color Touchscreen
Smartphone Links	Wired Apple CarPlay & Android Auto	Wireless Apple CarPlay & Android Auto
Audio System	Standard 8-Speaker Audio	12-Speaker Bose Premium Sound with Subwoofer
Digital Instrument Gauge	7-inch TFT Meter Display	10.2-inch Fully Digital Instrument Cluster
Drive Modes	ECON, Normal, Sport	ECON, Normal, Sport, + Individual mode
Tech Upgrades	USB-C Ports	Google & Alexa Built-in, Wireless Charger, Wi-Fi Hotspot
Safety Extras	Honda Sensing Suite	Honda Sensing + Front/Rear Parking Sensors, Low-Speed Braking

Key Upgrades on the Sport Touring Hybrid

- **Premium Technology:** The Sport Touring replaces the basic 7-inch screen with a **9-inch infotainment display featuring Google built-in** (Google Maps, Google Assistant, Play Store). It also replaces the partial digital gauge with a striking **10.2-inch driver display**. [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)
- **Enhanced Cabin Comfort:** Inside, you get **leather seating surfaces, power-adjustable front seats**, an automatic-dimming rearview mirror, and ambient LED lighting. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Acoustic Upgrades:** The Sport Touring adds wheel resonators to combat road noise, paired with an immersive **12-speaker Bose audio system** that occupies the cargo sub-floor. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Convenience & Safety Additions:** It introduces rain-sensing windshield wipers, a wireless smartphone charging pad, and **front/rear parking sensors** linked to Low-Speed Braking Control. [\[1\]](#)

=====

/truth

As we have all learned from experience or from newspaper articles, AI has been known to produce fake data and references, especially if it cannot find the information the user requested in its databases. So this /truth code forces AI to only come up with results that are well-documented from reliable sources.

To test this, I asked it to describe the results of the 2020 presidential election. [My apologies if this offends any readers.]

The request:

/truth Describe the outcome of the 2020 presidential election in the US

The response:

Joe Biden won the 2020 United States presidential election, defeating the incumbent president, Donald Trump. [\[1\]](#)

The election was certified with the following official outcomes: [\[1\]](#)

Electoral and Popular Vote Results

Electoral College: Joe Biden secured **306 electoral votes**, while Donald Trump received **232 electoral votes**. A total of 270 votes was required to win. [\[1, 2\]](#)

Popular Vote: Biden won **81.2 million votes** (51.3%), making him the recipient of the most total votes for a presidential candidate in U.S. history. Trump received **74.2 million votes** (46.8%). [\[1, 2, 3\]](#)

Key Battleground States

Biden flipped several key states that Trump had previously won in the 2016 election: [\[1\]](#)

- **The Rust Belt:** Biden reclaimed Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.
- **The Sun Belt:** Biden narrowly won Georgia and Arizona. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)

Post-Election Legal Challenges and Certification

Trump and his allies challenged the results in multiple state and federal courts, alleging widespread voter fraud. Virtually all of these lawsuits were dismissed or thrown out due to a lack of evidence. Government security agencies, including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), declared the 2020 election to be the most secure in American history. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)

Congress officially certified the Electoral College results on January 6–7, 2021, and Joe Biden was inaugurated as the 46th President of the United States on January 20, 2021. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

/eli5

Asks AI to explain the answer as if telling it to a five-year-old

For this example I asked AI to explain Einstein's Theory of Relativity to me in language a five-year-old kid would understand

The request:

/eli5 Einstein's Theory of Relativity

The response:

Einstein's Theory of Relativity is split into two parts: Special Relativity and General Relativity. They change how we think about time, space, and gravity. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

□ **Special Relativity (The Cosmic Speed Limit)**

Imagine you are on a super-fast train with no windows. If the ride is perfectly smooth, you cannot tell if you are moving or sitting still. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

The Speed of Light is Always the Same: Light travels at roughly 186,000 miles per second. It does not matter if you are standing still or chasing it in a rocket; it always passes you at the exact same speed. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Time is Flexible (Time Dilation): Because light's speed never changes, time itself must bend. The faster you travel through space, the slower you travel through time compared to someone standing still. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)]

Mass and Energy are Twins: Moving objects get heavier as they go faster. Einstein showed that matter (stuff you can touch) and energy are just two forms of the same thing. He wrote this as the famous formula $E=mc^2$. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

□ **General Relativity (The Fabric of Space)**

Before Einstein, people thought gravity was an invisible magnetic pull between objects. Einstein realized it is actually a shape. [[1](#), [2](#)]

- **Space-Time is a Trampoline:** Think of space and time woven together like a giant, stretchy trampoline sheet.
- **Heavy Objects Bend Space:** If you place a heavy bowling ball (the Sun) on the trampoline, it creates a deep dip.
- **Gravity is Just Falling into the Dip:** If you roll a small marble (the Earth) onto the trampoline, it will roll around the bowling ball. It isn't being pulled by an invisible string; it is just following the curve created by the heavy ball. That curve is what we call gravity.

As I mentioned there are many more codes available and there seems to be pretty standard usage of them across the different platforms, so, if you use AI for searches, it is worth taking the time to look them up, give them a test run, and see if your search results can be improved by adding the

[Go to Page 1](#)

Try The Paint App In Windows 11

By Frank Cerny

Sarasota Technology Users Group, <http://www.thestug.org>



Windows comes with many free applications (apps, programs, or software), and one of the most enjoyable is the Paint app. Every version of Windows has included Paint, and over the years it has gained many additional features and menu options.

There are many helpful videos available online, especially on YouTube, that demonstrate how to use Paint. Our goal here is simply to show what is possible, so you can decide whether Paint may be useful for working with drawings, photos, or clip art. (Some features mentioned are available only in Windows 11.)

While Paint offers many useful tools, it is not a full-featured photo editor or professional drawing program. However, it does provide a number of practical and easy-to-use features. With Paint, you can:

- A. Open a photo or other image file and make changes. You can draw on it, add text, change colors, rotate the image, or crop it.
- B. Change the size of an image by adjusting its resolution (number of pixels).
- C. Save an image as a different file type.
- D. Create a new image from scratch. You can choose colors and use a variety of brushes, such as pencil, crayon, spray paint, oil, or watercolor, to create your artwork.
- E. Use the eraser tool to remove parts of an image, or use “Undo” to correct mistakes.
- F. Zoom in or out of an image. You can even zoom in far enough to adjust individual pixels.
- G. Share your creations with others. Anyone using Windows can open and edit the file in Paint.

NEW TOOLS IN WINDOWS 11 PAINT INCLUDE:

- 1. Layers – You can create foreground and background layers and work on each separately without affecting the others. These layers can then be combined into a final image.
- 2. Text-to-image (AI) – You can type a description such as “create an image of a dog walking on the moon,” and the Copilot Image Creator in Paint will generate an image. A Microsoft account is required, and usage limits or costs may apply.

codes. 

3. Background removal – You can remove the background of an image and keep only the portion you want.

If you found yourself thinking, “I didn’t know that,” then we have accomplished our goal of sparking your curiosity.

Even if you simply want to experiment or doodle for fun, Paint can help you explore your creativity.

You may wish to search online for “Windows Paint tutorials” and watch a few short videos. The features are not difficult to learn, and you may discover new ways to enjoy working with your computer. 

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VIBE CODING COMPETITION

This event is contingent upon submission of multiple entries (non-members are welcome to participate).

OPCUG will offer two prizes for submissions using vibe coding in a competition to be held at the club's monthly meeting in October. **Holding the competition will be subject to having multiple entries submitted.** The use of vibe coding will be on the honour system. For those providing entries, there will be two prizes offered: (1) the most useful product, and (2) the best presentation of the development process. Note that the project doesn't have to be successful for this second portion of the competition. Stories of trials and tribulations, and even abysmal failure will be happily accepted. So, get started on your vibe-coding project (see the article "**You Too Can Be A Programmer**" in the [March newsletter](#)). You have lots of time to refine both the code and the associated presentation. **When you are ready, submit your entry to the competition to: SuggestionBox@opcug.ca.**

This meeting will be via Zoom video conference.

Join us at <https://tinyurl.com/opcug-meeting>. The Zoom link will be live at 7:15 pm. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

If the TinyURL link doesn't work, use:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92495560898?pwd=cDNCCvZVVRiZ3hQNHJzVDZNVHoxZz09>.

The above link includes the meeting ID and password. However, if you are prompted for the information, use:

Meeting ID: **924 9556 0898**

Password: **opcug**

Bio of Chris Taylor

Chris Taylor worked for the Canadian Federal Government for over 36 years in user & server support, IT architecture and IT security.

He has been active in community groups for over 40 years and is currently the President of the Ottawa PC Users' Group.

Chris has given over 600 presentations at the Ottawa Public Library and over 40 presentations to the APCUG & APCUG member groups. He has written articles for GlassWire's Cybersecurity News and was on the Community Review Board for the SANS OUCH! security newsletter.

Chris has been awarded 15 times as a Microsoft Most Valuable Professional. He received the Ottawa Mayor's City Builder Award and the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in recognition of his volunteer activities.



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Meetings start at 7:00 PM (9:00 AM on Saturday) unless otherwise noted. *Virtual Meetings during Covid pandemic.

August

September

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 7pm General Mtg Fun with Fonts 6pm Tech Topics	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7pm General Mtg TBD 6pm Tech Topics	9	10	11	12 Linux on Saturday 9:00 AM— Noon
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 MS Office (including Access) 9:00 AM— Noon
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



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Would you like to receive this delivered directly to your email or business each month?

As a member of TC/PC, the Twin Cities Personal Computer Group, one of the benefits is reading this monthly publication at www.tcpc.com.

As a member of TC/PC, you may attend any or all of the monthly Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings and be eligible for software drawings. The small membership fee also includes access to real-live people with answers via our helplines, discounts, and various other perks.

Does membership in this group sound like a good way to increase your computer knowledge?

It's easy to do! Simply fill in the form below and mail it to the address shown.
(If you use the form in this issue, you will receive an extra month for joining now.)



8/26

Here's the info for my TC/PC Membership:

Full name _____

Company name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Change address: ☐ Perm. ☐ Temp. 'til _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Online address(es) _____

Where did you hear about TC/PC? _____

☐ I DO NOT want any of my information disclosed.

☐ I DO NOT want to receive any mailings

I'm signing up for3

☐ Individual/Family Membership (\$9)

☐ Business Membership (\$100)

If an existing member your # _____

Make checks payable to:

**Twin Cities PC User Group
341 County Rd C2 W
Roseville, MN 55113**

Or sign up on our website:

<http://www.tcpc.com>

☐ Check # _____ ☐ Bill me

☐ New member ☐ Renewal ☐ Prior member

I'm interested in:

☐ Training classes ☐ Volunteering

☐ Special Interest Groups: New User, Access, etc.

List here:

Administrative Use Only Rec'd _____ Chk# _____

August 11, 2026

7:00 pm

General Meeting

Fun with Fonts

Presenter: Chris Taylor

Via Zoom Only



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FIRST CLASS MAIL